

CASTLE SQUARE ENTERTAINERS ON CHAUTAUQUA PROGRAM



This picture shows the ever-popular Castle Square Entertainers, who are to give the opening program of the Chautauqua. They are a great bunch of fellows—a male quartet, violin and cornet quartet combined—a comedy company—and lots of other things that go to make them mighty fine entertainers.

M. U. MAN WRITES
OF MILITARY BLUES

Fred W. Shorter, '14, Tells
of Troubles in British
Reserve Camp.

"ALL DRILL—NO WAR"
Says Unbearable Monotony
Causes Privates to "Reg-
ister Kicks."

Editor the Missourian: I'm a 1914 man in camp with the Canadians. If you know what a military camp in England is like, you would not wonder when I say that I'm as blue as a Missouri sky. When one is blue he usually looks back at the "wonderful" times he used to have. The most pleasant years of my life were spent at Old Mizzou. That's why, I suppose, I am writing to you. I have a feeling that maybe some of my old associates will send me a star-bomb of a letter that will scare the blue devils out of the sky.

This camp is in the beautiful scenery country. As soon as one gets away from the scars of the camp, he is surrounded by scenes of natural beauty that make him choke with adjectives. Even with our fall kits—and we never go on marches without the darned things—we are forced to delightful exclamations. When I tell you our kit weighs about fifty pounds, you will see that I'm saying a mouthful. Re-e-ally, as the English say, even to sit on your detestable bed-boards and think of those winding country lanes hedged with holly, of the heath-covered hills and startlingly picturesque little villages, you feel even your mental horizon lose its blueness.

Partly for this reason we all like the route marches better than the drilling and "physical jerks." The latter get very monotonous. Besides, the drilling especially, seems so useless. We "kick" among ourselves that forming four will never win the war. Marching in a perfectly straight line, with buttons brightly polished and belt properly adjusted, was all right for the Tommy of peace times, but for us who are bent on serious business such things seem absurd.

Naturally, there are a great many things like the useless shining of brass buttons that we all kick about. To kick is a soldier's inalienable right. It is remarkable to find how quickly, not only in this but in other respects, one becomes a typical soldier. When you first enlist you are filled with bursting enthusiasm. You are going to fight to protect those things which you consider as the highest possible value. But before three months of squad drill, company drill, Swedish drill, stretcher drill, four o'clock reveillies, tattoos, kit-inspection, infernal grub, hard bed-boards—before a month or so of all this, and more, you find yourself wondering what on earth you are doing it all for. Or, you may be scheming to get out of some unpleasant fatigue work. Or, perhaps you are hoping that the next meal will not be quite so bad as the last. One almost forgets there is a war going on. If he is to keep heart at all, he must force himself away from the details and get a large view of what he is really doing. But it takes

a big man to do this. Of course, when one does it he knows that he would gladly enlist again, under the same circumstances. But can you wonder that we often get sick of it? We go thru the monotonous, and seemingly fruitless experiences of the soldier's life without the excitement. That's why we should pray, if we thought there was efficacy in a soldier's prayer, that we be sent to France within the next twelve hours. There, one knows—for Fritz is constantly reminding him of the fact—that he is engaged in serious business.

I think the uniform dress is a big factor in making a man a soldier. It is part of the tremendous leveling influence that he feels on the first day of his army life. He looks at the fellow next to him, at the one next to him, and at the hundreds around him, and sees the same kind of clothes that

he is wearing. He knows that practically every man, even to his underwear, is dressed exactly like him. Gradually he finds himself believing that is not only looks like the man

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MISCELLANEOUS

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next to him, but that he is really like him. There is no doubt as to how he will be treated by the people who don't know him. He is a soldier just like the soldier across the street or like the one who got drunk last night and kicked up a shindy in the little village. Then you realize as never before, that "clothes make the men." You yearn for more individuality. You want to get away from the uniforms for a while. You might as well cry for the moon. No matter where you go, sometimes you think that even if it were to the uttermost parts of the earth—the uniform is there. Not only yours but the other fellow's also. You get a girl and go for a walk down a country lane. It's quiet and lonesome. You take her hand, you—no you don't, because another soldier with another girl pops around the corner. You glare at him, but you know instinctively that he is thinking the same thing about you!

But I'm afraid I'm telling too much, so I had better shut my mouth. With firm convictions that the future holds wonderful things for my old Alma Mater, I am,

Yours sincerely,

209822 Pte. Fred W. Shorter,
15th Cdn. Field Ambulance,
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June 16.

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TO SEND BOOKS TO ARMY CORPS
American Library Association to Establish Stations for That Purpose.

The American Library Association is making extensive plans to forward books to the sixteen military cantonments, soon to be established by the United States Government. At the Louisville (Ky.) conference held the last of June, a war service committee was appointed which now has under consideration plans for this work. The details have not been completed, but there will be a central station in each state through which books can be forwarded to the respective cantonments.

The University Library will be the station for Columbia and through it the people will have the opportunity either to send books or to contribute money.

The public is cordially invited to attend the Vesper Organ Recital by Dr. Herman Almstedt, assisted by Mr. George Venable, violinist, and Miss Myrtle Parker, soprano, at Calvary Episcopal Church at 4 o'clock Sunday, July 15. A silver offering will be taken for the benefit of the Red Cross and for the Parish Fund. (adv)

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